

Message Text

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17
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

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R 231440Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8746
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMCONSUL GOTEBOG
USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 5235

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SW, CU
SUBJECT: CASTRO UNLIKELY TO VISIT SWEDEN

1. TWO LEADING STOCKHOLM PAPERS, INDEPENDENT DAGENS
NYHETER AND CONSERVATIVE SVENSKA DAGBLADET, BOTH
SPECULATED ON SEPTEMBER 22 THAT ONE OF THE FIRST
FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS LIKELY TO BE MADE BY THE
NEW SWEDISH GOVERNMENT AFTER ITS INSTALLATION ON
OCTOBER 8 WILL BE TO IGNORE ANY COMMITMENT THAT PRIME
MINISTER PALME MAY HAVE MADE TO PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO
OF CUBA TO VISIT SWEDEN. THE CUBAN DICTATOR HAD
BEEN INVITED TO COME TO STOCKHOLM BY PALME DURING
THE LATTER'S VISIT TO HAVANA IN MID-1975.
ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR LAST SPRING, THE VISIT
WAS POSTPONED BY PALME UNTIL COMPLETION OF SWEDEN'S
GENERAL ELECTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 19. PALME WAS
CONCERNED THAT CASTRO'S PRESENCE DURING A CLOSELY
CONTESTED POLITICAL RACE WOULD DAMAGE SOCIAL
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DEMOCRATIC FORTUNES AT THE POLLS, PARTICULARLY IN

VIEW OF CUBAN TROOP ACTIVITY IN ANGOLA AT THAT TIME.

2. COMMENT: WHILE IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO DESCRIBE THE FOREIGN POLICY DIRECTIONS THE NEW GOVERNMENT MAY ADOPT, MOST POLITICAL OBSERVERS HERE WOULD FIND IT MOST SURPRISING IF THE CASTRO VISIT WERE NOT QUIETLY FORGOTTEN BY BOTH SIDES. IN FACT, THE THREE VICTORIOUS OPPOSITION PARTIES IN THIS WEEK'S ELECTIONS WENT ON RECORD SEVERAL MONTHS AGO IN THE RIKSDAG DEBATE OVER CONTINUED ASSISTANCE TO CUBA AS DEMANDING THAT VERY SUBSTANTIAL CUTS BE MADE. AND WHILE THE FALLDIN GOVERNMENT'S OWN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BUDGET WILL NOT BE FORTHCOMING UNTIL JANUARY, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE 1976 TOTAL OF 40 MILLION KRONOR FOR CUBA WILL NOT BE REACHED AGAIN. THERE IS THEREFORE THE POSSIBILITY OF A CHILL OR AT LEAST A DOWNTURN IN SWEDISH-CUBAN RELATIONS IN THE RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE.
SMITH

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